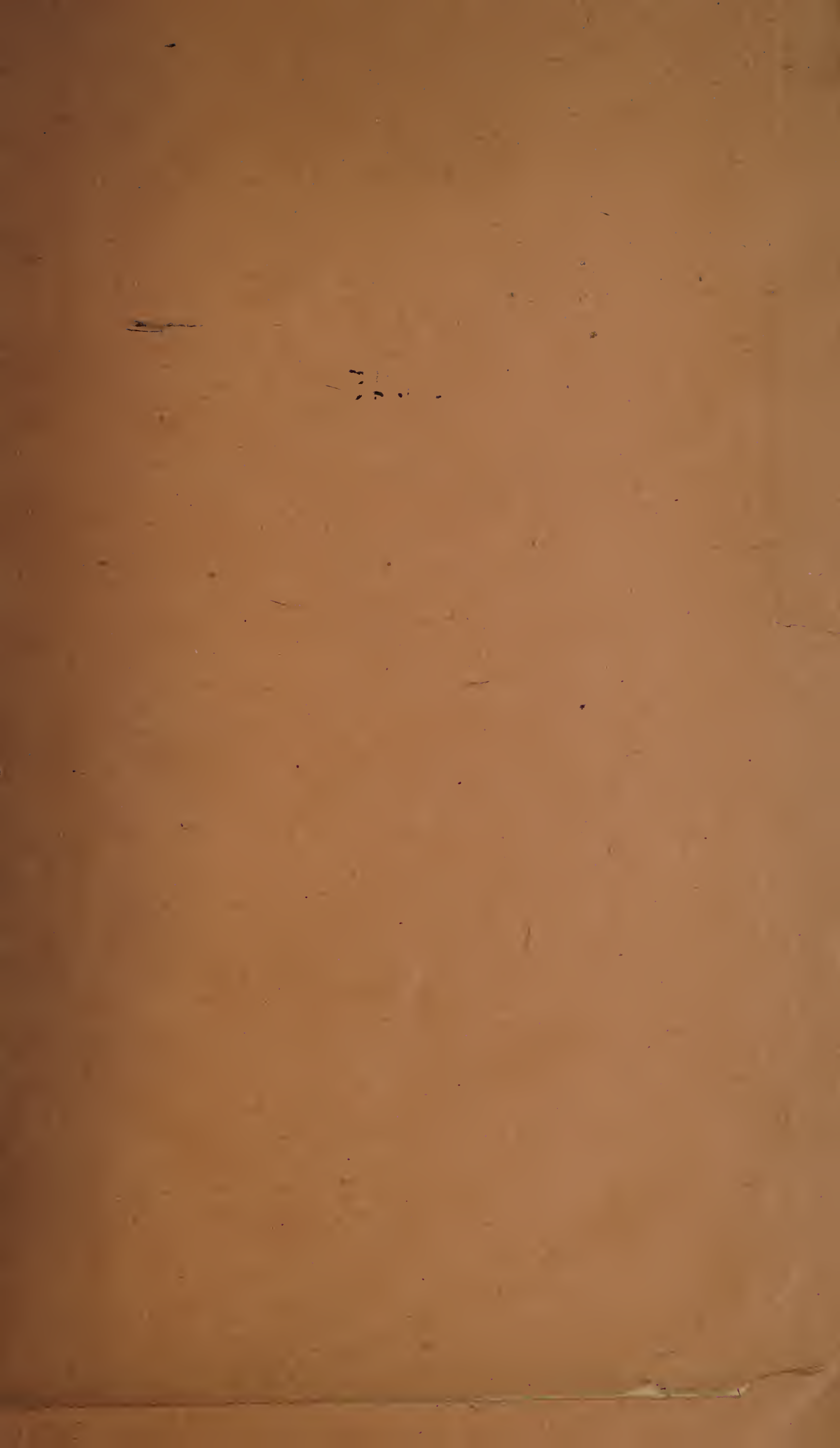






No 4867.45





REPORT
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

RELATIVE TO

The experiments made to test the relative efficacy and usefulness of the Onondaga solar salt and the Turk's island salt, in the cure and packing of provisions.

JANUARY 9, 1854.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 5, 1854.

SIR: By a resolution of the Senate of the 27th ultimo, it was—

“Resolved, That the Secretary of War furnish to the Senate copies of all the reports made by officers of the army within the last three years, of experiments for testing the relative efficacy and usefulness of the Onondaga solar salt, and Turk's island salt, in the cure and packing of provisions, together with a copy of the instructions under which such experiments were made, with any other information which the department may have illustrating the results of said experiments.”

In answer thereto, I have the honor to state that, the experiments instituted to test the relative efficacy and usefulness of the two salts have not yet been completed.

Full reports of experiments on pork, which had been packed for six months, and for eighteen months, have been received, except from California; but those for twenty-six months, which are the most to be relied on, are yet to be made, and cannot be received at the department until late in the current year.

To ensure fair tests and unbiassed reports on this subject, great pains have been taken in the instructions given to officers to prevent their knowing which pork had been packed with Onondaga, and which with Turk's island salt.

It will, therefore, be perceived, that to make public the partial information now possessed by the department would interfere with the plan in process of execution.

In view of the facts above stated, it is respectfully submitted to the Senate whether the partial reports shall now be made public, or the subject be laid over until the next session of Congress, when a complete report of the results of the experiments can be furnished.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

Hon. D. R. ATCHISON,
President of the Senate.

WABE L. CLARK
ART TO
NOTES TO

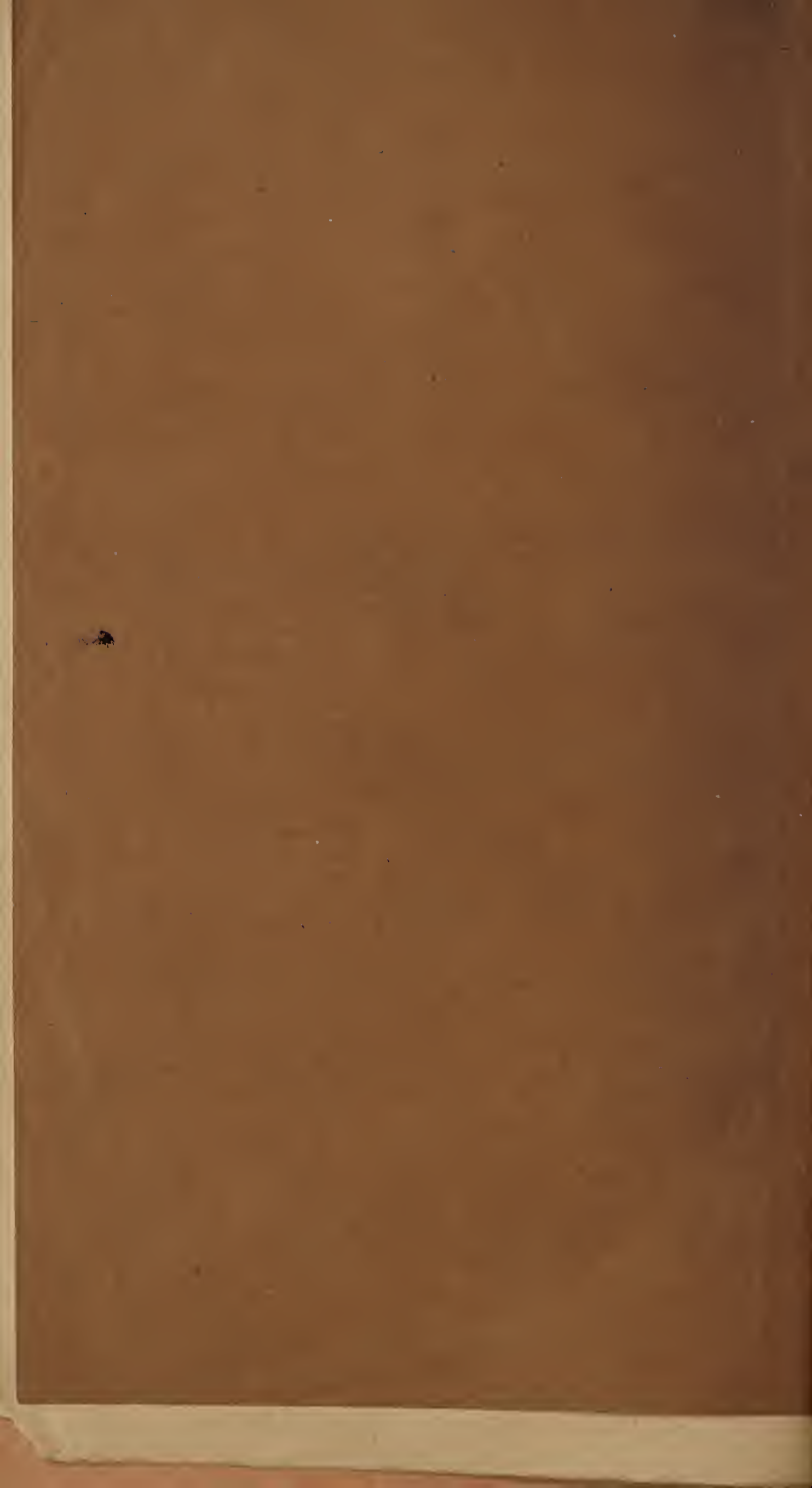
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